



Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Government complex Sejong, 388, Galmae-ro, Sejong-si 339-012, Republic of Korea

Cho Yoonsun
Minister
Spokesperson of the Government

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Dear

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Spokesperson of the Government of the Republic of Korea. This letter is intended to explain to you the unwavering position of the Korean Government in regard to the impeachment of the President by the National Assembly on December 9. I hope it will help you and your organization better understand the situation currently unfolding in Korea.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea passed a motion to impeach President Park Geun-hye, thereby suspending her from office. The Constitutional Court of Korea will have six months to decide whether to uphold or reject it. The Court's ruling will conclude the impeachment process. If the court upholds the impeachment, a presidential election will be scheduled within two months.

While the President is suspended, Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn is the acting President. He presided over the National Security Council and key meetings with the members of the Cabinet to check on pending issues sector by sector. He is overseeing state affairs meticulously to ensure that the Republic of Korea maintains a strong national security, seamless foreign policy and stable financial and foreign exchange markets.

Immediately after the passage of the impeachment motion, the Prime Minister gave an emergency instruction to the ministries in charge of diplomacy and security to the effect that the military should be on heightened alert. Subsequently, the Ministry of National Defense convened a meeting of top commanders of the entire armed forces. As evidenced by these moves, the Korean Government is placing top priority on maintaining a watertight defense posture in light of North Korea's continued nuclear tests and provocations. The Minister of Foreign Affairs invited some ambassadors from major nations stationed in Korea and explained that there won't be any fundamental change in the Korean Government's diplomatic policy. As such, the Government is making all-out endeavors to safeguard the nation's security by means of close communication and cooperation with the international community.

As part of efforts to stabilize the financial and foreign exchange markets, the Government is responding to fluctuations and reactions in the markets at home and abroad in a swift and active manner. The Ministry of Strategy and Finance has put in operation a joint emergency response team for the economy consisting of officials from related agencies to closely monitor domestic and foreign

financial and economic trends round the clock. On top of this, the Ministry is doing all it can to maintain the international community's confidence in the Korean economy and to minimize any possible impact on the economic activities of ordinary citizens.

Fortunately, financial market indicators such as stock prices and exchange rates are being kept stable probably because of these efforts. The domestic media outlets gave a positive assessment of the Government efforts to prevent the political situation from causing excessive anxiety, calling them "a stable management of state affairs."

The international media complimented the mature civic consciousness of Koreans illustrated by the peaceful candlelight demonstrations carried out over the recent several weeks. You must have witnessed the vibrant energy that bodes well for the future of democracy in the Republic of Korea.

Korea is now at a critical moment of the transformation from growth into maturity. Since Korea has had numerous experiences in turning crises into opportunities and of rewriting its history, I hope you will give full support to the Republic of Korea as it dreams of another takeoff.

The Korean Government will carefully listen to the opinions about Korea of the journalists around the world and will use them as a source of inspiration as we head into the future. I hope you will generously share with us your wisdom and opinions for another leap forward.

As a member of the Cabinet, I feel a heavy sense of responsibility and will put every ounce of my energy into carrying out state affairs in an impeccable manner and sorting out the current situation.

Thank you very much.



Cho Yoonsun
Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism